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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Samuel C. Weaver

Serial No. 09/838,866

Filed: April 20, 2001

Art Unit: 3643

Patent Examiner: Nguyen, Son T.

Our Ref: 01-211

METAL MATRIX
COMPOSITE HORSESHOE

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Bates
2/12/03*Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

January 14, 2003

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

Preliminary to further examination of the above-captioned application and in response to the Official Action dated May 15, 2002, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please rewrite claims 1 and 9 to read as follows:

1. (amended) A metal matrix composite horseshoe having improved vibration damping and stiffness, said horseshoe comprising a metal matrix composite that is formed from a molten metal selected from the group consisting of aluminum, magnesium, titanium and mixtures thereof, and from particles of silicon boride composition selected from the group consisting of silicon tetraboride, silicon

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